

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ACCRA 05863 202256Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 EUR-12
IO-13 HA-05 L-03 PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15 /106 W
-----127809 212016Z /62
R 201403Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4672

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ACCRA 5863

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB, GH, PINT
SUBJ: LABOR LEADERS' VIEWS ON NEW GOVERNMENT

REF: ACCRA 5369

1. DURING HIS FAREWELL CALL AT THE GHANA TRADES UNION CONGRESS JULY 13, THE EMBASSY LABOR REPORTING OFFICER DISCUSSED THE RECENT GOVERNMENT CHANGES WITH GHANAIAN UNION LEADERS. DURING THE MEETING WITH TUC SECRETARY GENERAL ISSIFU AND CHAIRMAN ASHILEY, THE LABOR REPORTING OFFICER NOTED A MEMORANDUM FROM THE TUC, THE GHANA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS AND THE CIVIL SERVANTS ASSOCIATION TO THE FORMER HEAD OF STATE, GENERAL ACHEAMPONG (COPY AIR POUCHED TO AF/I). ACCORDING TO ISSIFU, THE INITIATIVE FOR THE MEMO, DATED MAY 13 BUT DELIVERED SEVERAL DAYS LATER, CAME FROM THE TUC. THE MEMO WARNS ACHEAMPONG THAT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE THREE ORGANIZATIONS CAN NO LONGER ASK WORKERS TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND MAY LOSE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION. IT HIGHLIGHTS THE PROBLEMS OF HIGH PRICES AND SHORTAGES OF FOOD AND OTHER BASIC COMMODITIES AND THE HARDSHIPS THAT THE TRANSPORT CRISIS IMPOSES ON WORKERS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ACCRA 05863 202256Z

2. ACCORDING TO THE TUC SECRETARY GENERAL, HE AND THE OTHER TWO LEADERS FINALLY MET WITH GENERAL ACHEAMPONG AND FORMED A GROUP TO MONITOR THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE WORKERS' PLIGHT. WHEN ASKED IF THE MEMO CONTRIBUTED TO THE DOWNFALL OF ACHEAMPONG, ISSIFU REPLIED NEGATIVELY, SAYING THAT THE CHANGE WAS A PURELY INTERNAL SMC AFFAIR. ISSIFU OBSERVED THAT THE GROUP CONTINUES TO

MONITOR THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES.

3. THE UNION LEADERS WERE NON-COMMITTAL ABOUT THE NEW HEAD OF STATE, GENERAL AKUFFO, AND HIS POLICIES. AS OHE FORMER HEAD OF THE TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE ON WAGES, THEY NOTED THAT AKUFFO IS FAMILIAR WITH LABOR'S POSITION. BOTH ISSIFU AND ASHILEY EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THE REPLACEMENT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF FINANCE AND OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS. THE CHANGE IN THE FINANCE PORTFOLIO WAS ESPECIALLY SUPRISING, AS THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 1978-79 BUDGET IS OVERDUE.

4. COMMENT: THE TUC LEADERSHIP IS TAKING A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE ABOUT THE NEW HEAD OF STATE. THE SMC UNDER GENERAL ACHEAMPONG WAS GENERALLY PRO-LABOR. THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING BASIC ECONOMIC REFORMS THAT, AT LEAST IN THE SHORT RUN, COULD MAKE THE WORKER'S PLIGHT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. WHEN ASKED, THE SECRETARY GENERAL SAID THE TUC HAS NOT BEEN CONSULTED BY THE NEW HEAD OF STATE. WE HAVE LEARNED, HOWEVER, THAT A HIGH PELGL TUC DELEGATION WENT TO THE CASTLE (THE EXECUTIVE OFFICES) THE DAY AFTER ACHEAMPONG'S OUSTER, ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TRANSPIRED. HOLMES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ACCRA05863
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780300-0814
Format: TEL
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780740/aaaabhmp.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e46e3570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ACCRA 5369
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1948911
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR LEADERS' VIEWS ON NEW GOVERNMENT
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, GH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e46e3570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014